



The Leon County

# LINK

## Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

### 2004/05 Budget Funds New Library, Park, and More!



The Board of County Commissioners approved its 2004-05 budget in September following two public hearings. The \$191 million dollar spending plan includes a reduction in the general millage rate while providing funding to continue high levels of services to Leon County

citizens. The budget includes funds for the Lake Jackson Branch Library, the Northeast Community Park, the Apalachee Parkway Regional Park at the Solid Waste Facility (landfill), and funding toward the development of a women's health center on the Southside of the County. In addition, there is funding for road construction, stormwater improvements, economic development enhancements, and more. You can view the 2004-05 budget from Leon County's Website at [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov).

### Public Encouraged to Provide Input on the Future of North Florida Fairgrounds

The public is invited to attend a second community meeting on the future of the North Florida Fairgrounds on Monday, Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be located at the Fairgrounds, Building 2. Strategic Planning Group, Inc. will present recommendations to the public and the Leon County Fairgrounds Citizen Advisory Committee about changing the use of the Fairgrounds property. There are many different ways the Fairgrounds property could be used. It is important that those people living and working on Tallahassee's Southside, and all Leon County residents, consider what would be the best use of this property. The public is urged to attend this meeting and provide input on the proposed plans. Citizens can preview some possible redevelopment scenarios and respond to an on-line survey at [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov). For more information on the Fairgrounds re-use project, please call Strategic Planning, Inc. at 1-800-213-PLAN.



### Leon County Recognizes Volunteer Firefighters with Fire & Safety Day



VolunteerLEON invites the community to a celebration for our volunteer firefighters with Fire & Safety Day on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Books-A-Million, 3521 E. Thomasville Road. There will be fire and safety demonstrations and free hot dogs and drinks. Leon County's six Volunteer Fire Departments will be represented

in full force with their fire trucks and rescue equipment, including the "jaws of life." The American Red Cross Firehouse will also be on hand to teach children about fire safety. At noon, the annual "Volunteer Firefighter of the Year" award will be presented to this year's most outstanding Leon county volunteer firefighter. For more information, please contact VolunteerLEON at 921-3015.

### County Commissioners Announce 2004 Neighborhoods of the Year

The Board of County Commissioners realizes strong and united neighborhoods are the foundation of our community, and for this reason, established the Neighborhood Recognition Program and the Neighborhood of the Year Award. This year, Leon County recognized the following neighborhoods for their achievements in improving our community: Sugar Mill Plantation (Small Neighborhood), Avondale (Medium Neighborhood), Eastgate (Large Neighborhood), and Betton Hills (First Time Applicant). The winners each received a County sign to place at the entrance of their neighborhoods. Callen, Chemonie Crossing, Seminole Manor, Southwood, and Weems Plantation also received honorable mentions.



### Leon County Employees Shine During This Active Storm Season

When severe weather impacts our area, numerous Leon County employees work tirelessly behind the scenes, in inclement and often dangerous weather conditions, to ensure your safety.



Through the last several tropical weather events, the Division of Emergency Management and representatives from several local social service groups worked around the clock to coordinate storm preparation and response efforts. The County Public Works Department prepared and distributed tens of thousands of sandbags that were used to protect homes and businesses. Public Works crews were deployed to strategic locations throughout the County to ensure quick response to potential flooding situations. Leon County also responded to hundreds of calls during these severe weather events removing trees and debris to make our roadways safe. Certainly, Leon County is a great place to live due in large part to the dedication of its employees.

### Community Invited to Participate in This Year's Veterans' Day Parade



Leon County is sponsoring this year's Veterans' Day Parade and would like to invite all local and regional veteran groups and other interested parties to participate. Those who are new to the event or

did not receive an application package, please call Veteran Services at 488-8462 to request parade information.

### Solid Waste Facility Has Free Mulch!

The Solid Waste Management Division is making good use of debris from the recent storms by converting it into mulch and providing it to residents at no cost. Residents and businesses can pick up the free mulch for their compost bins, gardens and flower beds



at the Solid Waste Management Facility, 7550 Apalachee Parkway, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Those who need assistance loading the mulch should make an appointment by calling 487-2890. Also, due to the large amount of debris that has fallen as a result of recent storms, Waste Management is behind schedule on its yard waste collections. We apologize for any inconvenience and ask our citizens to be patient during the delay.

## October 2004

Board of County Commissioners  
Schedule

- 12 Commission Meeting** 5 p.m.  
**Public Hearings** 6 p.m.  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers
- 14 Joint City/County Public Hearing on Cycle 2005 Comprehensive Plan Amendments** 6 p.m.  
City Hall, Commission Chambers
- 18 Intergovernmental Agency Meeting** 5 p.m.  
City Hall, Commission Chambers
- 26 Commission Meeting** 5 p.m.  
**Public Hearings** 6 p.m.  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers

The Link is produced by Leon County Public Information, 488-9962.